

CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY



# Trail *post*

Winter 2022



## Understanding “The Why”



A parent last summer wrote on her after camp evaluation that her camper returned home with a greater understanding of “the why of church”. What a beautiful way to summarize “the why of camp”.

Cross Trails is a partner in ministry to help churches and people of all ages step away from their everyday and encounter God in new ways. Sometimes we all need to physically change our point of view to envision and appreciate God’s much bigger point of view in new ways.

For many people, summer camp and retreats have become a part of the lifelong faith formation of their family and their church. As a ministry of gathering and sending, Cross Trails helps people to envision God’s call to the world, while reinforcing the need to gather in a community of faith to praise God and strengthen one another. Thanks be to God!



## The Gift of Faith Gala is March 12th!

**No one should miss out on camp because of the cost!** Cross Trails is committed to keeping our camps affordable and providing financial aid “camperships” to families who need them. The Gift of Faith Gala is our primary way to raise funds for “camperships” and keep summer camp affordable for all. This year our goal is to raise \$40,000. There are many ways that you can be involved and we need your support!

This year our gala is going to be a week-long virtual fundraiser culminating on March 12th with an in-person gathering at Ebert Ranch Camp. Tickets are available now for the in-person event which will include dinner, live music, dancing, and a camp-centered live auction all while raising funds for a great cause!

Become a sponsor! Donate an auction item!

Go to [giftoffaith22.givesmart.com](http://giftoffaith22.givesmart.com) to participate!

**Sign up and start bidding on March 6th if you want to participate remotely.**

Tell your friends, family, church or business partners! Contact [Jessica@crosstrails.org](mailto:Jessica@crosstrails.org) with questions.

## Celebrating the Past & Looking to the Future!

We have some big anniversaries to celebrate soon! In 2023, Cross Trails Ministry will be celebrating its 25th and Ebert Ranch Camp will celebrate its 40th! Then in 2025, Camp Chrysalis will celebrate its 75th anniversary! As we plan these celebrations, we are also excited to be planning for the future of our programs, sites, and the ministry as a whole. While we celebrate the past and look to the future, we have to thank all of you for your role in making all of this possible!



CAMP CHRYSALIS & EBERT RANCH

# Retreats for All Ages



## Cross Trails Retreats

Cross Trails Retreats are planned and led by Cross Trails staff. **The retreats below are open to anyone and financial aid “camperships” are available.** All you have to do is sign up at [CrossTrails.org](http://CrossTrails.org) and come! To find out more or register, go to [CrossTrails.org](http://CrossTrails.org) and click on “Retreats”.

### Upper Elementary Spring Retreat at Camp Chrysalis

**For Youth in Grades 3-5 and an Adult from their Congregation—April 8-10**

Sound the horn! There are so many things to be loud about! Join us as we celebrate what God has done with us, and find out what our faith can help us overcome. God is so good, and this weekend we will get to see how God works with us, and how we can grow by doing what God wants us to do. Follow God’s path, and find that anything is possible! Bring your group to enjoy fun camp activities, games, a craft, interactive Bible study and more!

### Women’s Craft Retreat at Camp Chrysalis

**For Adult Women—April 28-May 1**

**Choose to Arrive on Thursday or Friday and Stay until Sunday**

Come to beautiful Camp Chrysalis to enjoy a weekend with women of faith practicing creative new skills. Slow down and relax as the Camp Chrysalis staff pampers you with wine and cheese, worship and devotions, and a quiet atmosphere. Bring your own project to work on or try your hand at one of our featured crafts. You can sign up for one, two or all of the new crafts we are teaching. Featured crafts include birdhouse building, papermaking, quilled earrings and loom knitting. Visit our [CrossTrails.org](http://CrossTrails.org) for pictures and craft fees.



### Save these Dates!

Registration for Fall 2022 Cross Trails Retreats Opens April 1st

**Labor Day Family & Friends Retreat—September 2-5 at Chrysalis**

**What Does this Mean?! Confirmation Retreat on the Lord’s Prayer—September 23-25 at Chrysalis**

**Southwestern Texas Synod Middle School Gathering—November 11-13 at Chrysalis**

**Family Advent Retreats—Choose the best weekend for you! December 2-4, 9-11 or 16-18 at Chrysalis**

**Upper Elementary Advent Retreat—December 9-11 at Ebert Ranch**

## Plan Your Retreat! New Family Pricing!

Both Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp have space available for hosted rental groups. Just gather at least 8 people and let us know which site and dates you want. Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, relax, hike, fish, trail ride, canoe, try the ropes course and more! Retreats are a great way to step away from your everyday to explore, grow, learn or play.

This year we have new family retreat pricing available! If you have a group of families from your church or a family reunion to plan, contact us. With a minimum group size of 12, at least 8 of which must be adults or in grade 6 and above, you can book a retreat. Our quad cabins have a central gathering area, surrounded by four rooms. Families will be housed one per room, each with their own bathroom. Your group pays a base fee for each family’s room, and then pay per person for any meals or staff-led activities. A campfire with s’mores is always included, free of charge!





# Summer Camp 2022

## Overnight Camper Numbers are Up Over 20%! Sign Up Now for the Early Payment Discount!

Ready, Set...Go! It's time to sign up for Summer 2022! This summer we will explore faith practices that help connect us to God and get us ready to go into the world to follow God's call. And we will!

We have overnight programs at Ebert Ranch Camp, Camp Chrysalis and Beach Camp in Corpus Christi! Youth who have completed grades 1-11, adults, families and grandparents and their grandkids are already signing up. Day Camps for congregations are already full, but we do have a wait list for those interested.

**No one should miss out on camp because of the cost!** Financial aid "camperships" are available and we also have discounts! Last year, most of our overnight campers took advantage of the new "early payment discount" that is automatically applied if camper fees are paid in full, or a campership or payment plan has been requested, by March 31st.

Cross Trails Ministry was grateful to have eight weeks of camp in 2021 with no reported cases of COVID. The recommendations may change again before summer, but we know even if nothing changes, we will have faith-filled fun!



## Unique Camp Options for High Schoolers

Youth who have completed grades 8-11 can enter unique programs that develop and strengthen their leadership, faith and life skills as they move into adulthood.

The **Lutheran Youth Leadership Experience (LYLE)** is one of our fastest growing programs! Lutheran or not, all high schoolers are eligible to attend this unique camp experience. There are three programs, LYLE I is focused on developing your leadership gifts. LYLE II is focused on peer leadership and LYLE III is focused on practicing leadership skills at camp to take home to your church or community. It is all the fun of camp, but geared to learning to be a leader and developing meaningful connections. It also looks great on college applications!



For youth interested in living their faith in public, our **High School Beach Camp** provides the opportunity to explore service and care for creation in the Corpus Christi community. We combine coastal exploration and daily beach trips with the opportunity to serve with camp friends and leaders.

## Now Hiring Fun, Faith-Filled Role Models

Summer camp couldn't happen without Summer Staff who are willing to share their faith in words and action! If you know someone who would be a great role model for our campers, tell them the time to apply is now!

There are a wide variety of positions and no matter their role, working at camp is life-changing for those who follow the call! A link can be found on our webpage under "Employment".

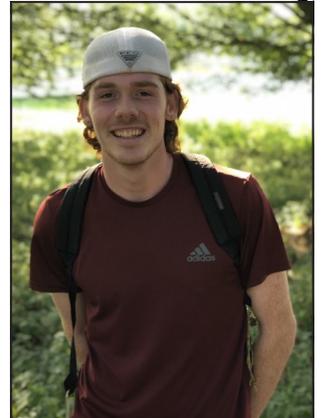


# News & Support

## Meet Curtis & Jack! Celebrate with Jay!

Cross Trails Ministry is pleased to introduce two new year-round staff members! Curtis Haby started this month as the new Cross Trails Ministry Facilities Director. He is originally from Rio Medina, but moved with his wife and three daughters to the Kerrville area when he became the Manager of the HEB Partner Lodge, next to Camp Chrysalis, 6 years ago. Prior to that he worked for 28 years in construction with HEB.

Jack Noblett started working with Cross Trails as the Camp Chrysalis Program Director in December 2021. He has worked with us for multiple summers and also worked as a Program Intern at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado after graduating from Texas Lutheran University.



We are also proud to have Leadership Staff who are deeply dedicated to the ministry. Join us in celebrating Jay Miller's 15th anniversary with Cross Trails! He started year-round as the Camp Chrysalis Program Director and then moved into the roll of Camp Director. Now he is bringing his experience and creativity to the new role as the Cross Trails Operations Director overseeing all areas of hospitality, volunteers and facility administration.

### Large Item Wish List

These "large" items are needed for our ministry. Contact our office if you want to donate one of these!

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Minivan   | Back pack leaf blower |
| Western tack and saddles                          | Pole saw              |
| Draft horse saddle                                | Drone—For videos      |
| Commercial, household or stacking washing machine |                       |
| Commercial, household or stacking dryer           |                       |

### Amazon Wish List

You can purchase items we need directly from our Amazon Wish List! There is a link on our webpage. Just look for "Ways to Give" under "Support" and you can go directly to a set of items that we need.

It's very simple. Choose what you would like to give, add them to your cart and proceed to checkout as usual. The item(s) will be mailed directly to us!

Please note that Amazon does not tell us who donated the items. So, when you purchase something from our Wish List, please check the box "this is a gift" and write us a note to let us know it is from you. You can also email [info@crosstrails.org](mailto:info@crosstrails.org) to tell us you bought something. Either way, please let us know, we want to thank you!

### Calling All Staff Alumni!

Are you a former summer staff member? Did you work for Cross Trails or maybe the former ministries of LORMS or LAOSC? If so, we would love to know when you worked, and where you are now!

Just contact our Outreach Director, Jessica Pina at [Jessica@crosstrails.org](mailto:Jessica@crosstrails.org) and share your camp history! You can also request to be a part of the former summer staff Facebook group and connect to other former staff!

### Volunteer Opportunities

Cross Trails Ministry relies on volunteers to help us with many projects around both of our camps.

Before summer, we are looking for volunteers to chainsaw dead trees and do trail maintenance at both sites, organize and clear out some storage areas and complete multiple cleaning projects. And these are just a few of the possibilities!

Let us know what skills and time you have and we will work with you. You can come for a day, or schedule a whole weekend if you have a group of at least 8 folks. If you or your group would like to help, contact Jay Miller at [Jay@crosstrails.org](mailto:Jay@crosstrails.org).